

CLAIMS

1. A container for storing and dispensing consumer products, comprising:
 - a tray having a generally planar top surface into which has been formed one or more discrete cavities for receiving the consumer products; and
 - 5 a cover film to be secured to the generally planar top surface of the tray to seal the one or more cavities to retain the consumer products in the one or more cavities;
 - 10 the cover film having pre-formed tear lines defining a tear-off portion corresponding to the periphery of the or each cavity to retain the consumer products in that cavity until it is removed by tearing along its tear lines, the or each tear-off portion of the cover film having an associated lug portion not secured to the tray in use, for gripping by a consumer preparatory to tearing off the said tear-off portion;
 - 15 CHARACTERISED IN THAT the top surface of the tray has an upwardly extending protrusion positioned to be located beneath the or each lug portion in use to bend that lug portion upwardly out of the plane of the remainder of the cover film when the cover film is secured to the generally planar top surface of the tray.
2. A container according to claim 1, wherein the cover film is secured to the top surface of the tray by an adhesive.
- 20 3. A container according to claim 2, being a multiple-compartment container for containing and dispensing medication according to a pre-defined dosage regimen, wherein an array of discrete cavities are formed into the generally planar top surface of the tray and the cover film has pre-formed tear lines defining the peripheries of an array of tear-off portions, each tear-off portion being arranged so that in use it lies over an associated one of the cavities.
- 25 4. A container according to claim 3, wherein the adhesive is a peelable adhesive applied to the underside of the cover film.
- 30 5. A container according to claim 4, wherein the tear-off portions of the cover film have low vapour transmission properties in the areas which in use overlies the cavities, those low vapour transmission properties being created by patches with high

vapour barrier properties shaped and sized to overlie the cavities and adhered to the underside of the cover film by the same layer of peelable adhesive as that which in use adheres the cover film to the top surface of the tray.

- 5 6. A container according to claim 5, wherein the patches extend under the lug portions and are adhered to the underside of the lug portions by the same layer of peelable adhesive as that which in use adheres the cover film to the top surface of the tray.
- 10 7. A container according to claim 6, wherein the cover film prior to application to secure it to the generally planar top surface of the tray to retain the items within the discrete cavities has over the whole of its underside a sheet of barrier film secured thereto by the peelable adhesive, the barrier film having pre-formed tear lines defining the peripheries of the high vapour barrier patches, so that peeling away the majority of the barrier film immediately prior to application of the cover film to secure it to the generally planar top surface of the tray exposes the peelable adhesive in areas necessary for adhesion to the tray but leaves the patches attached elsewhere to the underside of the cover film.
- 15 8. A container according to claim 7, wherein the sheet of barrier film has a further pre-formed tear line close to one edge thereof to define a tear-off portion which when removed exposes a location anchorage area of the peelable adhesive on the underside of the cover film, for adhering an edge portion of the cover film to an edge portion of the tray before peeling away the majority of the barrier film and adhering it over the tray cavities.
- 20 9. A container according to claim 8, wherein the tray has upstanding cover sheet location means formed there on, and the cover sheet has cooperating means for accurate location of the cover sheet over the tray with the tray cavities and cover sheet tear-off portions in register before adhering the cover sheet to the tray.
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10. A container according to claim 5, wherein the patches are larger than the tear-off portions.
11. A container according to claim 1, wherein the cover film is a metal foil, a metallized polymeric film or paper sheet, or a plastics film of single or multiple layer construction.
12. A container according to claim 1, wherein the cover film is non-rupturable.

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